

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 06873 311322Z

41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 OPR-02

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 A-01 OC-05 CCO-00 IO-10 SCCT-01

AID-05 EB-07 CU-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 OMB-01

AF-06 /113 W

----- 003470

O R 311145Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4577

DIA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEOBASSY ATHENS

USINT BAGHDAD UNN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEOBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 06873 311322Z

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6873

STUTTGART FOR ELG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PGOV, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANON SITUATION REPORT AS OF NOON, MAY 31

REF: BEIRUT 6840

1. QUIET SECURITY SITUATION DESCRIBED REFTEL TOOK ANOTHER TURN FOR WORSE AROUND MID-DAY MAY 30, FOLLOWING OUTBREAK OF SHOOTING IN DOWNTOWN BEIRUT THAT CAUSED ONE DEATH, SPARKED WIDESPREAD PUBLIC PANIC AND PROMPTED HASTY SHUT-DOWN OF SHOPS, ETC. BY 1630 HOURS LOCAL, SITUATION DETERIORATED EVEN FURTHER AS RESULT RESUMPTION OF SNIPING IN CITY CENTER AND DEVELOPMENT OF MAJOR GUN-BATTLE BETWEEN PHALANGIST FORCES MANNING BARRICADES IN ASHRAFIYYAH QUARTER AND MOSLEM-LEFTIST FACTIONS DTING SAME IN QUARANTINA AND OTHER NEARBY AREAS. THESE INCIDENTS WERE ACCOMPANIED BY NUMEROUS KIDNAPPINGS AND SCENES OF VIOLENCE AT ROADBLOCKS ERECTED IN MARIOUS PARTS OF TOWN. FOLLOWING REPORTED ABDUCTION HERE OF THREE CHAMOUNIST SUPPORTERS BY UNKNOWN ELEMENTS IN EARLY EVENING, TROUBLE SPREAD SOUTHWARDS TO DAMOUR WHERE CHAMOUNISTAND PHALANGIST ADHERENTS SET UP ROADBLOCKS ON MAIN COASTAL ROAD AND BEGAN HARRASSING MOSLEMS AND PALESTINIAN TRAVELERS ON THEIR WAY TO SOUTH LEBANON. LATTER ACTIVITY QUICKLY LED TO OUTBREAKS OF FIRING BY MOSLEM/PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS IN SIDON AND TO NIGHT-LONG HOSTILITIES BETWEEN CHRISTIAN AND MOSLEM FACTIONS IN VICINITY OF DAMOUR. WE UNDERSTAND THAT LATTER HOSTILITIES LEFT AT LEAST ONE PERSON DEAD AND SEVERAL OTHERS INJURED AND THAT SHOOTING WAS STILL IN PROGRESS AT MID-DAY MAY 31. COSTAL ROAD, NEEDLESS TO SAY, IS STILL BLOCKED.

2. NIGHT OF MAY 30-31 SAW RELATIVE QUIET RETURN TO BEIRUT, AND THIS MORNING WE ESTIMATE TRAFFNC AND BUSINESS ACTIVITY TO BE APPROXIMATELY 40 PERCENT OF NORMAL IN RAS BEIRUT AND CITY CENTER. PRESENCE OF ARMED ELEMENTS ON STREETS IN OTHER SECTIONS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 06873 311322Z

OF TOWN APPEARS TO BE HEAVY, HOWEVER, AND LOCAL ATMOSPHERE IN GENERAL IS EXTREMELY TENSE. AMERICAN COMMUNITY REMAINS UNHARMED, BUT WE ARE TODAY ADVISING AMCITS TO RESTRICT THEIR DAYLIGHT MOVEMENTS TO RAS BEIRUT AND NEARBY LOCAL BEACHES, AND TO STAY AT HOME AFTER 2200 HOURS TONIGHT.

3. SITUATION HAS BECOME ADDITIONALLY UNSETTLED BY REPORTS (NOTED ABOVE) OF WIDESPREAD KIDNAPPINGS AND ATROCITIES PER-

PETRATED BY VARIOUS ELEMENTS ON BOTH SIDES. WE UNDERSTAND FROM OFFICE OF SHIITE IMAM MUSA SADR, WHO HAS BEEN ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN TRYING TO GAIN RELEASE OF KIDNAPPED PERSONS, THAT SOME 38 RPT 38 PERSONS (MOST OF THEM NONCOMBATANTS) WERE ABDUCTED SINCE NEW TROUBLES ERUPTED YESTERDAY AND THAT AT LEAST SIX OF THEM (INCLUDING BOTH MOSLEMS AND CHRISTIANS) REMAIN UNACCOUNTED FOR. THERE IS ALSO EVIDENCE OF UGLY ATROCITIES HAVING BEEN PERPETRATED IN CONNECTION WITH THIS KIDNAPPING WAVE, PARTICULARLY IN CONNECTION WITH THREE ASSYRIAN LEBANESE WHOSE HORRIBLY MUTILATED BODIES WERE FOUND AFTERNOON MAY 30 IN SUNNI MOS EM QUARTER OF MUSSEITBEH. MAY 31 NEWSPAPERS ARE FULL OF PICTURES AND STORIES RE SUCH ATROCITIES, WITH LEFTIST ORGANS INCITING THEIR READERS AGAINST PHALANGIST "BARBARISM" AND PHALANGIST PRESS REPLYING IN KIND. INCITEMENT ATMOSPHERE WAS FURTHER INCREASED LATE MAY 30 BY LEFTIST LEADER KAMAL JUMBLATT, WHO MADE HIGHLY INFLAMMATORY PUBLIC STATEMENT FULMINATING AGAINST PHALANGIST "CRIMES" AND ACCUSING THEM OF BEING PART OF U.S. AND ISRAELI-INSPIRED TERROR CAMPAIGN TO SOW MURDER AND SEDITION IN LEBANON. AS "EVIDENCE", JUMBLATT REFERRED INTER ALIA TO RECENT STATEMENT RE LEBANESE SITUATION ALLEGEDLY MADE TO REUTERS BY "KISSINGER" AND CHARGED THAT AMB GODLEY IS PLAYING KEY ROLE IN ENCOURAGING PHALANGIST TROUBLEMAKING. (EMBASSY HAS ISSUED STRONG DENIAL OF THESE ALLEGATIONS, INDICATING THAT USC'S ONLY WISH IS FOR RESTORATION OF SECURITY AND STABILITY IN LEBANON.) JUMBLATT ALSO CLAIMED THAT ISRAELIS AND "FRENCH AND GERMAN MERCENARIES" ARE ASSISTING PHALANGE WITH ARMS, AMMUNITION AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT. PHALANGIST AL AMAL, NOT TO BE OUTDONE, THIS MORNING VOWED THAT PHALANGE IS PREPARED TO SEE LEBANON "DESTROYED" RATHER THAN BECOME VICTIM OF LEFTIST-PALESTINIAN "CONSPIRACY".

4. ON POLITICAL SCENE, PREMIER-DESIGNATE KARAME IS STILL EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTY IN FORMING NEW PARLIAMENTARY CABINET. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BEIRUT 06873 311322Z

HE APPEARS BE TRYING TO OVERCOME JUMBLATTIST AND LEFTIST OPPOSITION TO INCLUSION OF PHALANGISTS IN HIS GOVT BY PATIENTLY WAITING FOR SUCH OPPOSITION TO LOSE STEAM. AS NOTED ABOVE, HOWEVER, JUMBLATT IS SHOWING NO SIGNS OF GIVING GROUND, EVIDENTLY BEING DETERMINED TO (A) GAIN CABINET FORMED ON HIS OWN TERMS-- WHICH WOULD PROBABLY MEAN INSTALLATION OF RELATIVELY "WEAK" GOVT LACKING BOTH PHALANGIST AND JUMBLATTIST PARTICIPATION-- OR (B) FRUSTRATE FORMATION OF KARAME CABINET ALTOGETHER. IN CURRENT REHEATED ATMOSPHERE OF GENERAL CONFESSIOANAL/POLITICAL FEAR AND ANIMOSITY, IT IS DIFFICULT TO FORESEE HOW THIS IMPASSE CAN BE RESOLVED. ONLY THING WE CAN NOW SAY WITH ANY DEGREE OF CERTAINTY IS THAT THE LONGER THIS CABINET CRISIS LASTS, THE GREATER THE POSSIBILITY WILL BECOME OF FURTHER UNHELPFUL INCIDENTS THAT COULD PLUNGE ALL PARTIES CONCERNED INTO UNCONTROLLABLE TURMOIL AND STRIFE.

THIS VIEW SHARED BY THOUGHTFUL MODERATE LEBANESE OF ALL STRATA
OF SOCIETY WHO ARE ALL SHOWING A CONCERN RE THE FUTURE OF THIS
COUNTRY SUCH AS WE HAVE NEVER RPT NEVER SEEN HERETOFORE.
GODLEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT06873
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750191-0386
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975051/aaaaaabv.tel
Line Count: 173
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BEIRUT 6840
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <22 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANON SITUATION REPORT AS OF NOON, MAY 31
TAGS: PINS, PGOV, PINT, LE
To: STATE CIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006